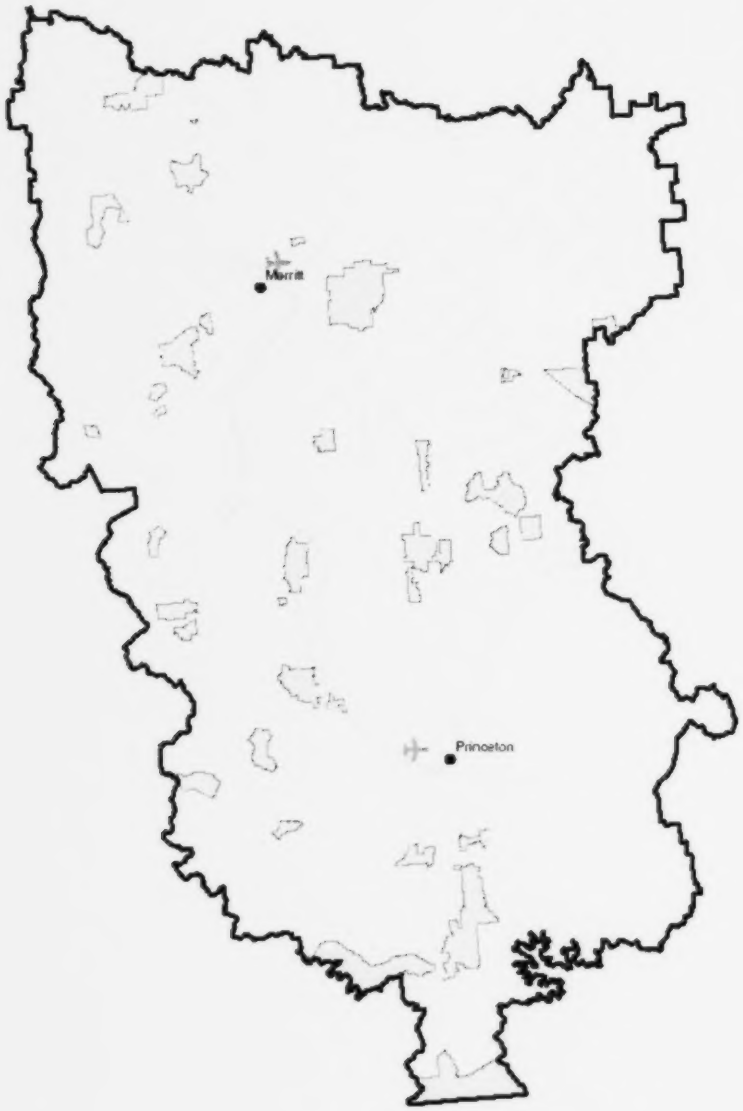
BC Timber Sales
Merritt
Sustainable Forest Management Plan



106-01645/

April, 2005

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VISION STATEMENT

The Merritt TSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan will foster forest management practices based on science, professional experience and local public and First Nations input that contribute to the long-term health and productivity of forest ecosystems, a strong economy and thriving communities throughout the Merritt Timber Supply Area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between November 2000 and May 2001 the forest licensees operating in the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA) worked with a group of public and First Nation representatives (the SFM Advisory Group) to develop a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan.

Members of the SFM Advisory Group represented a cross-section of local interests including recreation, ranching, forestry, conservation, water, community, and First Nations.

The SFM Plan includes a set of values, objectives, indicators and targets that address environmental, economic and social aspects of forest management in the Merritt TSA. The Plan is based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management System, which is one of the primary certification systems currently being used in British Columbia. The CSA system sets performance indicators and targets over a defined forest area to reflect local and regional interests. Consistent with most certifications, the CSA standards expect compliance with existing forest policies, laws and regulations.

Following completion of the SFM Plan and the development of an environmental management system, a licensee may apply for registration of its operating area under the CSA standard. Participants being registered to the CSA standard will be audited by an eligible independent third party auditor.

The SFM Plan is an evolving document that will be reviewed and revised on an annual basis with the SFM Advisory Group to address changes in forest condition and local community values. Each year the SFM Advisory Group will review an annual report prepared by licensees to assess achievement of performance measures. This monitoring process will provide the licensees, public and First Nations with an opportunity to bring forward new information and to provide input concerning new or changing public values that can be incorporated into future updates of the SFM Plan.

The BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Merritt SFM Plan is a subset of the Merritt TSA Plan and is completely aligned with it. Differences to the TSA Plan include details of the defined forest area and related forest inventory information, as well as the specific means of carrying out the plan by BCTS. The current year's digital copy of this plan is available at the following website:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TKA.htm

The Merritt TSA sustainable forestry website contains the latest information on the process (including the TSA SFM Plan) and can be viewed at:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/SustainableForestry/SustainableForestry.htm

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1 Overview

The Sustainable Forest Management Plan is a "roadmap" to current and future strategies related to long-term performance. The performance measures have been developed using the CAN/CSA Z809-96, *A Sustainable Forest Management System: Specifications Document* and updated to the CAN/CSA Z809-02 Standard. This document describes the various components of the plan as it relates to BCTS Defined Forest Area in the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA).

1.2 Process

Forest tenure holders in the Merritt TSA have developed the Merritt TSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan based on components of the CAN/CSA Z809, utilizing advice and recommendations provided by the public advisory group. The Plan provides management direction to all Crown lands within the TSA. All licensees operating within the Merritt TSA worked with the public advisory group to develop performance measures (values, objectives, indicators and targets) for the TSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan. Development of the performance measures was related to the broad TSA level as well as the individual licensee operating areas. Having all licensees represented during the development of a single Plan, helped to address the complexities of overlapping licenses and volume based harvesting tenures within the TSA. More importantly, all licensees are committed to the achievement of the Plan and will annually report on their performance.

Forest licensees will compile an annual report to summarize achievement of performance measures. Annual monitoring of the achievement of the TSA plan and comparing actual results to desired goals enables the effectiveness of the plan to be critiqued and continually improved. The advisory group will be consulted annually on the suitability and effectiveness of the selected plan indicators and targets. Changes to the TSA SFM Plan as a result of these discussions will be documented along with the timelines for implementing the change.

Described within the TSA Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan are description of values and objectives, forecasting and management strategies for indicator and targets, links to other planning processes and summary of publicly developed values, objectives, indicators and targets. As well, the documentation related to the public group including the Terms of Reference and any key decisions are located in the Merritt Public Documentation binder retained at the Kamloops Timber Sale Office. BCTS is committed to the TSA SFM Plan in its entirety. The TSA SFM Plan and meeting summaries are available at the following website:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/SustainableForestry/SustainableForestry.htm

The Company will annually report the results of this BCTS specific SFM plan to the public advisory group concurrently with the TSA SFM annual report. Any changes made to values; goals, indicators and objectives of the TSA SFM Plan will also be made to the BCTS SFM Plan.

The BCTS Merritt Sustainable Forest Management Plan includes three sections:

Section 1.0 Introduction and Overview

Section 2.0 Defined Forest Area

Section 3.0 Indicators, Objectives and Variance

Additionally the plan includes two appendices:

Appendix 1 BCTS Merritt Defined Forest Area Map

Appendix 2 SFM Plan Reporting Format

2.0 DEFINED FOREST AREA

The Defined Forest Area for s operations is located in the Merritt Timber Supply Areas (TSA). The boundary of the Defined Forest Area is specified in BCTS's geographic information system (GIS) inventory. A map of the area is shown in Appendix 1.

The Defined Forest Area is based on BCTS traditional chart area within the TSA. The traditional chart areas contribute 65,837 gross hectares and have an AAC of 208,238m3/yr in volume. In addition, BCTS does operate throughout the TSA and has operations that overlap adjacent licencee areas. BCTS sells the authority to harvest developed timber, and construct roads through Timber Sale Licences (TSL). Through the sale of these TSL, BCTS grants the holder of licence the right to harvest and sell the timber and construct roads. The TSL requires the holders to follow BCTS EMS and SFM requirements. BCTS maintains the obligations to plan development, maintain roads, and reforest harvested areas covered by TSLs. Included within this Defined Forest Area are Crown Lands excluding Woodlot Licences. Contained within this area, but also excluded from the defined forest area are all private lands. Much of the defined forest area is not available for harvesting, including parks, inoperable areas, and non-productive areas.

Within BCTS's Defined Forest Area, six overlapping non replaceable 'small wood' forest licenses (Princeton Wood Preservers and Hu'kwa Resources Inc., Princeton and District Community Forest Corporation, Princeton Forest Products, Nicola-Pacific Forest Products, Qua'eet Forest Products and Mego Wood Products) have authority to harvest. These three licensees have participated indirectly in the SFM Plan process and are, committed to the objectives in the plan and to reporting annually on their performance relative to the plan indicators.

The Defiend Forest Area is predominantly coniferous forest composed of Lodgepole Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, Englemann Spruce, Sub-Alpine Fir. There is only a minor deciduous component, composed, of Birch and Aspen, within the area.

The Crown land portion of the Defined Forest Area proposed for harvesting and related development must be referred to the public, and approved by the appropriate government agencies. All activities must be consistent with all government regulations, as well as government regional and sub-regional planning direction. BCTS incorporates any applicable regulation, direction and information into its Forest Development Plans, and Forest Stewardship Plans which are referred to the public for comment.

3.0 INDICATORS, TARGETS AND VARIANCES

The values and objectives developed with the public advisory group for the Merritt TSA SFM Plan apply at the TSA level as well as at the licensee specific operating area level. In an SFM Plan it is the indicators and targets that provide the performance measures that are to be met through on-the-ground forest management activities. This section duplicates the detailed description of each of the indicators and targets found in the SFM Plan for the Merritt TSA. Additionally, it clarifies monitoring procedures and assigns responsibilities for each. Information related to the strategies, current status and forecasting of each indicator is provided for in the TSA SFM Plan or previous monitoring reports and is not repeated in the BCTS Merritt SFM Plan. Full compliance is required for many objectives i.e.; there is no variance. Where full compliance may not be achievable, an acceptable level of variance is indicated for the objective.

BCTS will monitor the achievement of targets annually. The format for the annual report is shown in Appendix 2.

Indicators

Indicator	**1. Hectares of old forest greater than 250 years within Natural Disturbance Type 4 (NDT4) (i.e., interior Douglas fir biogeoclimatic subzone).**
Target	A minimum of 90% (12,500 hectares) of existing age class greater than 250 years retained within NDT4.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Age class distribution of old forests are forecast as part of periodic Timber Supply Reviews to monitor impacts on the landscape. Hectares logged annually will be used to forecast long term achievement of the target.
Annual	BCTS will report the total number of hectares of Natural Disturbance Type (NDT) 4 greater than 250 years of age they have harvested (block area) during the reporting year as compared to the total number of hectares of Natural Disturbance Type 4 greater than 250 years of age (total TSA area, figure from Ministry of Forests). BCTS will also report the number of hectares harvested in age class greater than 250 years in NDT 4 where the leading species (from inventory label) is/are not harvested but younger trees (not contributing to the inventory age stand age) are harvested. An example would be the harvest of younger lodgepole pine in a mixed older fir and successional pine forest. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GIS inventory information that is updated through GENUS and inventory updates for the latest information. Important to query harvested blocks with NDT4 >250 to ensure inventory updates are not accounting for change. NDT4 query will based on the biogeoclimatic classification definitions located in the Biodiversity Guidebook.
Variance (Indicators)	Harvesting of tree species not contributing to the inventory age class will not be reported.
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**2. Level of conformance to riparian management area commitments contained within licensee plans**
Target	100% conformance to riparian commitments involving known temperature sensitive streams and their direct tributaries made within licensee plans. 100% conformance to other riparian commitments made within licensee plans.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number of riparian related non-conformances to BCTS plans as compared to the number of riparian commitments in licensee plans occurring during the reporting year. Details will be provided for all non-conformances. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS to generate the number of cutblocks having riparian commitments where harvesting or site preparation occurred during the reporting year. 2. GENUS Environmental will track environmental incident reports and will utilize this file in determining riparian related non conformance.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Area Forester

Indicator	**3. Percent of harvested blocks greater than 5 hectares that have individual wildlife tree/stubs and/or associated wildlife tree patches.**
Target	90% of cutblocks have stand level biodiversity that will include individual wildlife tree/stubs and/or associated wildlife tree patches.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Distributions of age classes as a result of Wildlife Tree retention are forecast as part of the Timber Supply Review.
Annual	BCTS will report, for cutblocks greater than 5 hectares, the number of cutblocks harvested with wildlife tree patches within or parented to the cutblock and/or individual trees/stubs within the cutblock as compared to the total number of cutblocks greater than 5 hectares harvested during the reporting year. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. GENUS will be used to generate the list of blocks where harvest was completed. 2. GENUS will provide a list of those blocks that contain wildlife tree patches and / or silviculture systems that prescribe reserve trees. 3. Harvested blocks not identified by GENUS as having reserve trees within the block, will be cross referenced to the Forest Development Plan, Silviculture Prescription, Site Plan or GENUS to look for WTP's identified outside the block.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Practices Forester

Indicator	**4. Percent of First Nation commitments addressed.**
Target	Address all Forest Development Plan commitments made relating to First Nation requests (i.e., forest-related traditional knowledge, cultural and heritage values).
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number of First Nation commitments related to the Forest Development Plan that were achieved as compared to the total number of First Nations commitments made in the Forest Development Plan. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Documentation of First Nations discussion related to the Forest Development Plan commitments and item completion is contained within the Forest Development Plan or related FDP file.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**5. Percent of harvested areas that are regenerated with species ecologically suited to the site.**
Target	All harvested areas regenerated to species ecologically suited to site.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	All trees planted on harvested areas must comply with stocking standards specified in BCTS plans. BCTS will report the: • number of harvested areas which were planted with species ecologically suited to the site during the reporting period. This will be compared to the total number of harvested areas planted. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS to provide the number of harvested areas (standard units) where tree planting occurred during the reporting period. 2. GENUS Environmental will keep a file for environmental incident reports and will utilize this file in determining non conformance with stocking standards.
Variance (Indicators)	Variance is provided for within the legal framework.
Responsibility to report	Practices Forester

Indicator	**6. Degree of protection given to Identified Wildlife.**
Target	100% conformance to plan commitments designed to protect Identified Wildlife species or habitat.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the area harvested where licensee plans contained commitments to protect Identified Wildlife and the area harvested where operations conformed to the plan to protect Identified Wildlife. BCTS will provide a list of IWMS species managed. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Documentation of Identified Wildlife Management strategies will be retained on the Silviculture Prescriptions and Site Plans of affected cutblocks and/or summarized in the Forest Development Plan. Utilize GENUS to provide a list of cutblocks where harvesting completed during the reporting period. 2. GENUS Environmental will track environmental incident reports and will utilize this file in determining Identified Wildlife non conformance.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**7. Percent of harvested cutblocks within the mule deer winter range that are managed consistent with the Merritt TSA Mule Deer Strategy.**
Target	All cutblocks within the mule deer winter range managed consistent with government policy.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	The timber supply impact of managing for Mule Deer winter range is forecast as part of the Timber Supply Review
Annual	Utilize local knowledge, actual on the ground indicators and strategy mapping to enable data consolidation. BCTS will report: • the number of cutblocks harvested that were managed consistent with the mule deer winter range strategy as compared to the total number of cutblocks harvested that were within the mule deer winter range area. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Use GENUS to provide a list of cutblocks where harvesting was completed during the reporting period. Utilize Silviculture Prescriptions, Site Plans, and GIS mapping to determine those harvested cutblocks that required management to the mule deer winter range strategy. 2. GENUS Environmental will track environmental incident reports and will utilize this file in determining non conformance with the mule deer winter range strategy.
Variance (Indicators)	As provided for within strategy and within legal framework.
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**8. Percent of areas revegetated with grass seed that is "graded acceptable".**
Target	All areas revegetated for the control of noxious weeds and erosion will use Canada #1 or equivalent grass seed.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the total amount of Canada #1 or equivalent seed purchased (kilograms) as compared to total seed applied (kilograms) for the reporting period. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Field Office will keep track of the grass seed purchased so as to verify the grade/quality and quantity. Seed purchase information will include seed quality. 2. Unit will use year end inventory to determine amount of seed applied during the reporting period.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Area Forester

Indicator	**9. Percent of harvest priorities, related to catastrophic forest health events (e.g. mountain pine beetle), completed prior to critical time frame.**
Target	100% of harvest area committed for harvest prior to critical time frame will be harvested.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	Harvest priorities will be established internally and consistent with the District forest health strategy. These priorities are monitored and revised as new information is made available. Licensees will report the: • Number of hectares committed to harvest by critical time frame. • Number of hectares harvested within critical time frame. The BCTS will report this figure by catastrophic forest health agent (e.g. mountain pine beetle). To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS to provide the number of cutblocks where harvesting completed during the reporting period. Cross-reference forest health strategy to determine when each block was harvested in relation to the time frames identified in the forest health strategy.
Variance (Indicators)	20%
Responsibility to report	Area Forester

Indicator	**10. Percentage of cutblock area that meets free growing requirements on or before the latest date.**
Target	All cutblocks will reach free growing requirements on or before the latest date.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the area of cutblocks that achieved free-growing status (prior to or at late free-growing date) as compared to the total hectares declared free-growing status prior to, at or beyond late free-growing date (during the reporting year). To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS to provide the total net area standard units that achieved free growing prior to, at or beyond late free growing date in the reporting period. 2. Unit will keep a file for environmental incident reports and will cross reference this file in verifying non conformance with meeting the late free growing date.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Practices Forester

Indicator	**11. Area of cutblocks that outperformed late free growing requirements in that year.**
Target	Report area of cutblocks that outperformed late free growing requirements and average time by which requirements exceeded.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the cutblock area (ha) which achieved free growing status and the average time (years) that the cutblock outperformed late free growing date (weighted average based on cutblock area). To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS to generate the net area which achieved free growing status and weight by time (years) that the area outperformed the late free growing date.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Practices Forester

Indicator	**12. Annual percent of cutblock areas in permanent access structures (e.g. roads, landings).**
Target	Less than 7% on average of cutblock areas in permanent access structures.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Permanent access structures (percent non-productive unnatural) are utilized in Provincial Timber Supply Review.
Annual	Information from BCTS plans will be utilized unless an internal or Ministry of Forests inspection reports the plan number has been exceeded, in which case the actual number will be used in report. BCTS will report the: • cutblock area (ha) of permanent roads and landings identified in licensee plans as compared to the gross block area (ha) for cutblocks harvested during the reporting year. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS to provide the gross block area for cutblocks harvested during the reporting period. From those, utilize GENUS to provide the planned area of permanent access structures based on the SP calculated levels (not maximum). 2. GENUS Environmental will track environmental incident reports and will utilize this file in determining non conformance with permanent access commitments.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Practices Forester

Indicator	**13. Level of conformance to soil conservation commitments contained within licensee plans.**
Target	100% conformance to soil conservation measures contained within licensee plans.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the area (hectares) where soil disturbance commitments were not achieved as compared to the total gross area harvested during the reporting year. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. GENUS Environmental tracks environmental incident reports and will utilize this file in determining non conformance with soil disturbance commitments. 2. Utilize GENUS to provide the total gross block area of cutblocks where harvesting was completed during the reporting period.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Practices Forester

Indicator	**14. Number of operationally caused slides occurring as a result of failure to perform a terrain assessment or to follow the recommendations within a completed assessment.**
Target	Zero slides.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number and associated area of operationally caused slides resulting from a failure to perform a terrain assessment or to follow the recommendations within a completed assessment. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. GENUS Environmental tracks environmental incident reports and will utilize these in reporting slides attributed to industrial activities. Where these incidents arise, investigation into root cause will occur to reveal if the slide is reportable.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Area Forester

Indicator	**15. Percent of watershed that is equivalent clear cut area (ECA).**
Target	Equivalent clear cut area (ECA) not to exceed 35% without doing further hydrological assessments prior to harvesting.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report on the number of cutblocks harvested where the watershed ECA exceeded 35% and no further hydrological assessments were completed compared to the total number of cutblocks harvested where the watershed ECA exceeded 35%. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS and/or the Forest Development Plan to provide the number of cutblocks harvested in watersheds where the ECA exceeded 35%, and from those identify the cutblocks where further hydrological assessments occurred.
Variance (Indicators)	5%
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**16. Percent of permanent status roads that have inspections and related maintenance completed as per programs.**
Target	All permanent status roads and associated structures will have inspections and related maintenance completed as scheduled..
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	Road inspection frequency is based on risk (i.e. community watershed, fish stream presence and level of deactivation, previous history). BCTS will report the: • Number of road inspections completed as compared to the number of inspections established in road maintenance programs during the reporting year. • Number of maintenance action items related to water management and soil movement that were completed as compared to the total number of maintenance action items that required completion during the reporting year. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. GENUS generates the road inspection frequency schedule based on the roads risk rating. GENUS will be used to provide the number of road inspections planned and completed during the reporting period. 2. GENUS will be used to identify progress on high and medium priority maintenance action items related to water management and soil movement that required completion during the reporting period.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Area Forester

Indicator	**17. Percent of area prescribed for planting that is completed before or during the third growing season.** **Percent of natural regeneration area meeting natural regeneration delay.**
Target	90 percent of area prescribed for planting is completed within the third growing season from start date of harvest. All natural regeneration area meeting natural regeneration delay.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	Utilize information for initial prescribed planting not for fill planting. BCTS will report: • The area planted prior or within the third growing season as compared to the total area planted during the reporting year. • The area naturally regenerated which achieved regeneration delay as compared to the total area where regeneration delay expired during the reporting year. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS to generate an area summary of cutblocks planted during the reporting period. From those cutblocks, how much area was regenerated before or during the third growing season. 2. Utilize GENUS to generate an area summary of cutblocks where (natural) regeneration delay expired during the reporting period. From those cutblocks, how much area achieved regeneration status.
Variance (Indicators)	+/-10 % ; None

Responsibility to report	Practices Forester
Indicator	**18. Annual harvest level as a percent of annual allocation.**
Target	Full compliance with cut control and annual reporting of harvest level and allocation.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	A timber supply review[1] for the TSA was last completed in -2001. Reviews are scheduled on a periodic bases with an objective of every 5 years.
Annual	BCTS will report the harvest level allocated for the District Timber Sale Program based on the BCTS Sales Plan. The level of actual annual harvest for the past reporting year will be reported based on volume of timber BCTS has sold during the reporting period.
Variance (Indicators)	According to Cut control regulation or government policy.
Responsibility to report	Area Forester

Indicator	**19. Total output of forest products (lumber, chips and other) from sawmills within the TSA.**
Target	Report the board feet and chip volume produced by sawmills within the TSA.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Not Applicable
Annual	Not Applicable
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	None

Indicator	**20. Operating level of timber processing facilities.**
Target	Report number of timber processing facility operating days, the average number of shifts for days the mill was in production and the number of mill employees on payroll.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Not Applicable
Annual	Not Applicable
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	None

[1] The Timber Supply Review has detailed forecasts which rely on the Chief Forester to provide a determination of harvest levels utilizing forecast information, Crown objectives and input from public

Indicator	**21. Conformance with plan commitments related to lakeshore guidelines.**
Target	100% conformance to plan commitments related to lakeshore guidelines.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	The timber supply impact of managing to the Lakeshore Guidelines is forecast as part of the Timber Supply Review
Annual	BCTS will report the area harvested where BCTS plans contained commitments to manage lakeshore and the area harvested where operations conformed to the licensee plans to manage lakeshore. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. GENUS will track environmental incident reports and will utilize this file in determining lakeshore related non conformance. 2. Utilize the GENUS to query the number of cutblocks which are located partially or wholly within the lakeshore management zone and harvested during the reporting period.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Practices Forester

Indicator	**22. Percent of cutblocks in known scenic areas with visual impact assessments completed.**
Target	Conduct visual impact assessments in known scenic areas (visual impact assessment demonstrates how harvest meets intent of visual quality objectives).
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number of harvested cutblocks in known scenic areas with visual impact assessments completed as compared to the number of cutblocks harvested which required a visual impact assessment during the reporting year. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize the Forest Development Plan, Silviculture Prescription, Site Plan or GIS on cutblocks harvested to compile the number of cutblocks that had a visual impact assessment required and completed.
Variance (Indicators)	Variance is provided for within the legal framework.
Responsibility to report	Practices Forester

Indicator	**23. Number of forest development plan\forest stewardship plan meetings.**
Target	Provide opportunity for public input at Forest Development Plan\Forest Stewardship Plan meetings.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number of meetings (including amendments) which were held and available to discuss Forest Development Plans\Forest Stewardship Plans and the number of people who attended these meetings. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize Forest Development Plan and/or related FDP files to provide information on the number of meetings and attendance.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**24. Maintain an SFM Advisory Group.**
Target	Conduct a minimum of two meetings per year.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number of SFM Advisory Group meetings held during the reporting year. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize Merritt SFM meeting summaries for documentation of meetings.
Variance (Indicators)	One meeting.
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**25. Number of First Nations consultation meetings attended related to Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan.**
Target	Participate in Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan consultation meetings with First Nations related to government consultation process.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number of Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan consultation meetings held with First Nations. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize documentation of First Nations consultation meetings related to FDP as contained within the Forest Development Plan and/or related FDP files.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**26 First Nations involvement in Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society (NSIFS).**
Target	Report on First Nations involvement in Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS (through the NSIFS) will report the nature of involvement that First Nations had with the Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society (NSIFS). To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize the NSIFS BCTS representative on the Board of Directors to provide details of First Nations involvement (website, meeting minutes).
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**27. Maintain number of extension activities offered to reach individuals.**
Target	27a: Maintain the number of extension activities such as career days, classroom presentations, tours and open houses. 27b:TSA Licensees will keep members of the public informed of forestry strategies being developed, and planning occurring by: • Maintaining a website • Circulating SFMP and other information to the public at least annually (news release/leaflet/open house etc.) 27c: BCTS respond to all written requests from the public for communication within 30 days of their receipt.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	27a: BCTS will report the number of forestry extension activities that were offered to reach community people and the number of community people that attended each activity. 27b: BCTS will report a yes/no answer as to whether the web site is being maintained, and whether SFMP and other information was made publicly available in the last year. 27c: BCTS will report on the number of responses sent out by licensees compared to the number of written requests for communication. Report the average timeline for response. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize annual consolidation of visits by the Forest Educator to provide information on extension activities to community. 2. Utilize documentation of responses to written requests as contained within the Forest Development Plan and/or related FDP files.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**29. Number of business initiatives and partnerships.**
Target	Report business initiatives and partnerships[2].
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report and provide detail regarding local business initiatives and partnerships. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1 BCTS will report on the number of Timber Sales and contracts to compnanies located within the TSA..
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Area Forester

[2] Benchmark and develop a target over time

Indicator	**30. Number of written comments from First Nations related to Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan proposals and the number of responses.**
Target	Open communications with First Nations during Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan reviews will include appropriate consideration of identified values. All written requests will be considered and responded to. Where specific written concerns were not incorporated into the Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan, BCTS will provide a letter of explanation (including options for recourse).
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number of First Nation written comments specifically related to Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan responded to, compared to the number of First Nations written comments received in the reporting year that need a response. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize documentation of First Nations referrals and BCTS response and follow-up as contained within the Forest Development Plan and/or related FDP files.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**31. Number of written comments from stakeholders and public related to the Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan proposals and the number of responses.**
Target	Open communications with stakeholders and public during Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan reviews will include appropriate consideration of identified values. All written requests will be considered and responded to. Where specific written concerns were not incorporated into the-Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan, licensees will provide a letter of explanation (including options for recourse).
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the number of stakeholder and public written comments specifically related to Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan referral that need a response, as compared to the number of Forest Development Plan consultation-comments responded to by licensees during the reporting year. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize documentation of public requests and BCTS response and follow-up as contained within the Forest Development Plan and/or related FDP files.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**32. Amount of time for road cut and fill slope grass seeding application.**
Target	All road cut and fill slope grass seeding application carried out within 12 months of completed road construction.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	
Annual	BCTS will report the average time (months) for road cut and fill slope seeding application completed during the reporting year on newly constructed roads. To enable reporting the following will occur: 1. Utilize GENUS to provide a list of roads where grass seeding was completed during the reporting period and, from those the average time (months) since road construction completion. GENUS will also be used to provide the length of newly constructed road.

Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Area Forester

Indicator	**(33) Protected ecosystems**
Target	Maintain 60,548 hectares of the land base in the Merritt TSA as protected areas. As new inventories are completed update the areas of the land base that are affected Licensee (representatives) participate in OGMA delineation opportunities.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Current status is provided as part of Timber Supply Review completed every 5 years.
Annual	BCTS report the current number of hectares maintained as Protected Areas as last reported by a Timber Supply Review BCTS report number of opportunities to participate in OGMA delineation and number of opportunities taken
Variance (Indicators)	5 percent
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

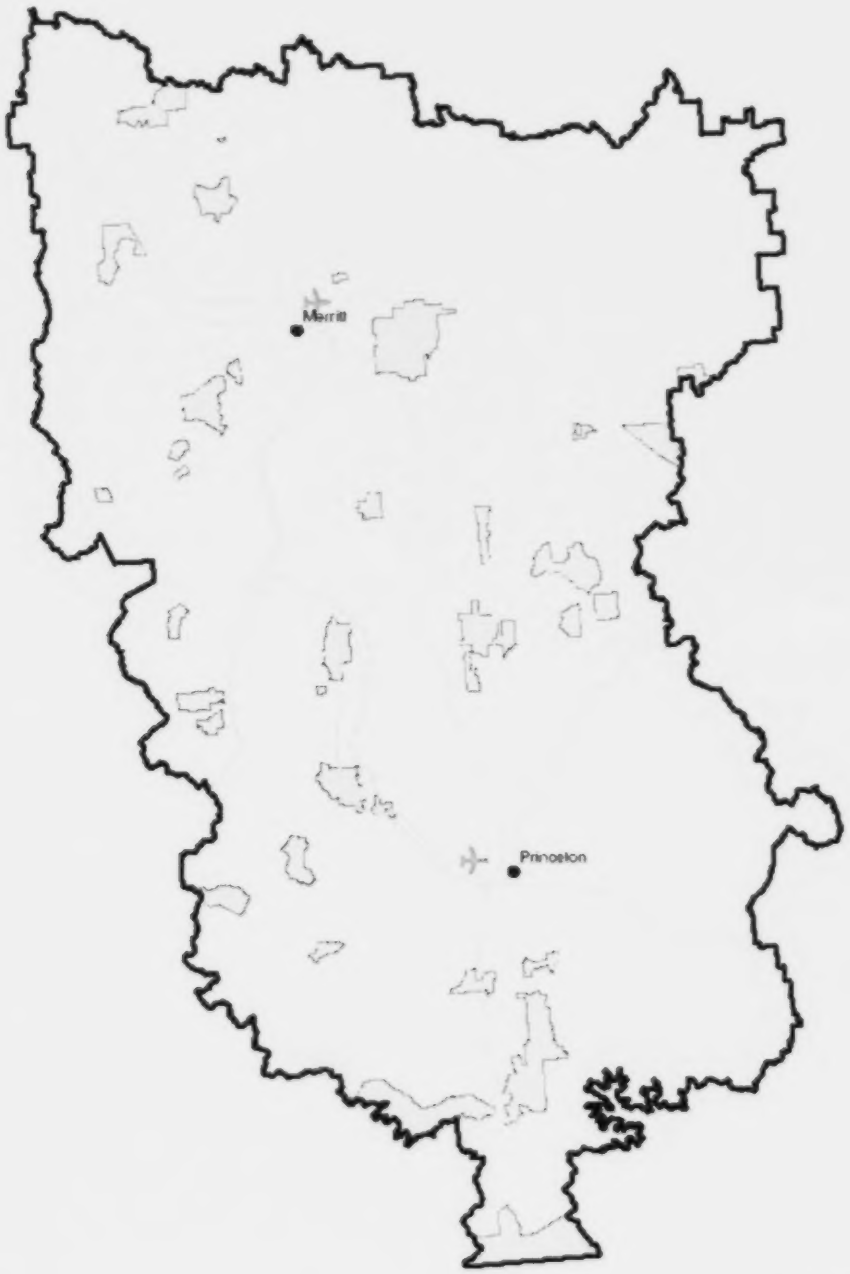
Indicator	**(34) Forest age class distribution**
Target	Maintain a stable forest age class distribution on the timber harvesting land base. Each age class to 100 years old [1 (1 to 20), 2 (21-40), 3 (41-60), 4 (61 to 80) and 5 (81 to 100)] occupies at least 14% of the timber harvesting land base. Target to be achieved within 100 years.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Current status and future forecast of age class distribution is provided as part of Timber Supply Review completed every 5 years.
Annual	BCTS report the current age class distribution on as last reported by a Timber Supply Review
Variance (Indicators)	Target achieved within 120 years.
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Indicator	**(35) Advisory Group Participant Satisfaction Survey**
Target	35a. 80% of responses "3" or better 35b. All written comments, and all line responses averaging less than 3 become action items
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Involve broader community in survey every 1 to 3 years
Annual	Survey responses coded 1 (poor), 2, 3 (satisfactory), 4, 5 (well done), and averaged. Results of feedback form compiled and reported as part of annual monitoring program.
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	CSO

Indicator	**36. Mean Annual Increment (MAI)**
Target	Maintain the long term productivity of the forest as measured by the mean annual increment (m3/ha/yr) for Lodgepole pine.
Monitoring & Measurement Periodic	Information required for reporting is provided as part of Timber Supply Review completed every 5 years. Beginning and end of simulation data is to be plotted over successive 5 year periods to confirm achievement of target.
Annual	BCTS report the current mai as last reported by a Timber Supply Review
Variance (Indicators)	None
Responsibility to report	Planning Forester

Appendix 1 Defined Forest Area Map

The following map shows the BCTS Merritt TSA Defined Forest Area. Shaded areas are BCTS Chart Areas.



Appendix 2 SFM Plan Reporting Format

The following table is the reporting form that Company will use when reporting the results of monitoring the SFM Plan. The Plan will be monitored annually and the information will contribute to an annual review to confirm that the CSA performance measures are being met and are appropriate. The SFM Advisory Group will review and comment on the report annually.

BCTS Merritt Sustainable Forest Management Plan Annual Report

Reporting year:_____

Note: For ease of consolidating this report for the TSA, provide figures as required for all monitoring data

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
1	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the total number of hectares of Natural Disturbance Type 4 (NDT) greater than 250 years of age they have harvested (block area) during the reporting year as compared to the total number of hectares of Natural Disturbance Type 4 greater than 250 years of age (total TSA area, figure from Ministry of Forests). Licensees will also report the number of hectares harvested in age class greater than 250 years in NDT 4 where the leading species (from inventory label) is/are not harvested but younger trees (not contributing to the inventory age stand age) are harvested. An example would be the harvest of younger lodgepole pine in a mixed older fir and successional pine forest.	_____Total ha of NDT 4 >250 years harvested (leading species from inventory type label). _____Total ha of NDT 4 >250 years (total TSA area, figure from MOF) _____Number of ha harvested in age class greater than 250 years in NDT 4 where the leading species (from inventory label) is/are not harvested but younger trees (not contributing to the inventory age stand age) are harvested.
2	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the number of riparian related non-conformances to licensee plans as compared to the number of riparian commitments in licensee plans occurring during the reporting year. Details will be provided for all non-conformances.	____# of riparian commitments in plans ____# of non-conformances to riparian commitments in plans Provide details regarding non-conformances below: _____

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
3	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report, for cutblocks greater than 5 hectares, the number of cutblocks harvested with wildlife tree patches within or parented to the cutblock and/or individual trees/stubs within the cutblock as compared to the total number of cutblocks greater than 5 hectares harvested during the reporting year.	____# of cutblocks >5ha with associated Wildlife Tree retention / ____total # of cutblocks harvested
4	**Monitoring/Reporting**: Licensees will report the number of First Nation commitments related to the Forest Development Plan (FDP) that were achieved as compared to the total number of First Nations commitments made in the FDP.	____# of First Nation commitments related to FDP achieved / ____total # of First Nation commitments made in FDP
5	**Monitoring/Reporting:** All trees planted on harvested areas must comply with stocking standards specified in Licensee plans. Licensees will report the: • number of harvested areas which were planted with species ecologically suited to the site during the reporting period. This will be compared to the total number of harvested areas planted.	____# of harvested areas that were planted with species ecologically suited to the site ____total # of harvested areas that were planted

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
6	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the area harvested where licensee plans contained commitments to protect Identified Wildlife and the area harvested where operations conformed to licensee plans to protect Identified Wildlife. Licensees will provide a list of IWMS species managed.	____# ha harvested where operations conformed to licensee plans to protect Identified Wildlife ____# total # ha harvested where licensee plans contained commitments to protect Identified Wildlife List IWMS Species managed for: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
7	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Utilize local knowledge, actual on the ground indicators and strategy mapping to enable data consolidation. Licensees will report: • the number of cutblocks harvested that were managed consistent with the mule deer winter range strategy as compared to the total number of cutblocks harvested that were within the mule deer winter range area.	____# of cutblocks managed consistent with mule deer strategy / ____total # of blocks harvested within mule deer winter range area
8	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the total amount of Canada #1 or equivalent grass seed purchased (kilograms) as compared to total seed applied (kilograms) for the reporting period.	____kg of seed Canada #1 or equivalent purchased / ____total kg of seed applied for revegetation of r/w.

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
9	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Harvest priorities will be established internally and consistent with the District forest health strategy. These priorities are monitored and revised as new information is made available. Licensees will report the: • Number of hectares committed to harvest by critical time frame. • Number of hectares harvested within critical time frame. Licensees will report these figures by catastrophic forest health agent (e.g. mountain pine beetle)	_____ha committed to harvest by critical timeframe (by catastrophic forest health agent) _____ha harvested within critical timeframe (by catastrophic forest health agent) Catastrophic Health Agent _____
10	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the area of cutblocks that achieved free growing status (prior to or at late free-growing date) as compared to the total hectares declared free growing status prior to, at or beyond late free-growing date (during the reporting year).	____ha of cutblocks that achieved free growing status prior to or at late re-growing date / ____total ha declared free-growing status prior to, at or beyond late free-growing date
11	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the cutblock area (ha) which achieved free growing status and the average time (years) that the cutblock outperformed late free growing date (weighted average based on cutblock area).	____# of ha achieving free-growing prior to late free-growing date Average time ____years that cutblocks outperformed late free growing date (weighted average: [area x year] + [area x year] + [area x year] / total area)

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
12	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Information from Licensee plans will be utilized unless an internal or Ministry of Forests inspection reports the plan number has been exceeded, in which case the actual number will be used in report. Licensees will report the: • cutblock area (ha) of permanent roads and landings identified in licensee plans as compared to the gross block area (ha) for cutblocks harvested during the reporting year.	____ha of permanent access structures / ____ha total gross cutblock area
13	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the area (hectares) where soil disturbance commitments were not achieved as compared to the total gross area harvested during the reporting year.	____ha soil disturbance where plan commitments were not achieved (report impacted area only) ____total gross area harvested
14	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the number and associated area of operationally caused slides resulting from a failure to perform a terrain hazard assessment or follow the recommendations within a completed assessment.	____# of slides ____Area of slides

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
15	**Monitoring/Reporting**: Licensees will report the number of cutblocks harvested where the watershed ECA exceeded 35% and no further hydrological assessments were completed compared to the total number of cutblocks harvested where the watershed ECA exceeded 35%.	____total # of cutblocks harvested where the watershed ECA exceeded 35% ____# cutblocks where ECA exceeded 35% and further hydrological assessments were completed
16	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Road inspection frequency is based on risk (i.e. community watershed, fish stream presence and level of deactivation, previous history). Licensees will report the: • Number of road/ structure inspections completed as compared to the number of inspections established in road maintenance programs during the reporting year. • Number of maintenance action items related to water management and soil movement completed as compared to the total number of maintenance action items that required completion during the reporting year.	____# of road/ structure inspections completed / ____# of inspections established in program ____total # of maintenance action items requiring completion during the reporting period ____# of maintenance action items completed as scheduled

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
17	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Utilize information for initial prescribed planting, not for fill planting. Licensees will report: • The area planted prior or within the third growing season as compared to the total area planted during the reporting year. • The hectares of naturally regenerated area which achieved regeneration delay as compared to the total hectares of naturally regenerated area where regeneration delay expired during the reporting year.	____ha planted prior to or within the third growing season / ____total ha planted ____ha of naturally regenerated area meeting regeneration delay / ____total ha of naturally regenerated area where regeneration delay expired during the reporting year.
18	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the harvest level allocated for each license and harvest level cut (cut control volume) for the past reporting year.	_____(License) _____m3 annual harvest_____m3 annual allocation _____(License) _____m3 annual harvest_____m3 annual allocation Variance exceeded ____ yes____ no
19	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the total output of lumber (thousand board feet), chips, shavings and hog fuel (bone dry units) from sawmills within the TSA. For other lumber products report the total output (m^3) (e.g. posts).	Total lumber output _____ mbf Total chip, shavings and hog fuel output _____ bdu Total other _____ m^3

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
20	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report: • the number of timber processing facility operating days. • the average number of shifts for day the mill was in production • the number of mill employees on payroll	_____# of timber processing facility operating days _____average # of shifts for days the mill was in production _____# of mill employees on payroll
21	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensee will report the area harvested where licensee plans contained commitments to manage lakeshore and the area harvested where operations conformed to Licensee plans to manage lakeshore.	____total ha which required management for lakeshore guidelines ____# ha where operations conformed to the plan
22	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the number of harvested cutblocks in known scenic areas with visual impact assessments completed as compared to the number of cutblocks harvested which required a visual impact assessment during the reporting year.	____# of harvested cutblocks in known scenic areas with VIA completed / ____# of cutblocks harvested which required VIA to be completed
23	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the number of meetings (including amendments) which were held and available to discuss Forest Development Plans/Forest Stewardship Plans and the number of people who attended these meetings.	____# of FDP/FSP meetings ____# of people who attended FDP/FSP meetings
24	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the number of SFM Advisory Group meetings held during the reporting year.	____# of SFM advisory group meetings

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
25	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the number of Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan consultation meetings held with First Nations.	____# of FDP/FSP First Nations consultation meetings
26	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees (through the NSIFS) will report the nature of involvement that First Nations had with the Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society.	First Nations involved in NSIFS ____ yes ____ no Describe the nature of involvement below: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
27	**Monitoring/Reporting:** 27a: Licensees will report the number of forestry extension activities that were offered to reach community people and the number of community people that attended each activity. 27b: Licensees will report a yes/no answer as to whether the web site is being maintained, and whether SFMP and other information was made publicly available in the last year. 27c: Licensees will report on the number of responses sent out by licensees compared to the number of written requests for communication. Report the average timeline for response.	____# of extension activities _____ # of community people reached through extension activities (career days, class room presentations, tours, open houses) Website updated during reporting year ____ Yes, ____ No SFMP and other information circulating to the public in the last year (news release/leaflet/open house etc.) ____ Yes, ____ No Number of written requests for communication _____ Number of responses sent out by licensees ____ Average timeline for response _____
29	**Monitoring/Reporting**: Licensees will report and provide detail regarding local business initiatives and partnerships	List and provide detail regarding local business initiatives and partnerships _____ _____ _____ _____

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
30	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the number of First Nation written comments specifically related to Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan responded to, compared to the number of First Nations written comments received-in the reporting year that need a response.	____# of First Nations comments related to FDPs /FSPs requiring a response ____# of Licensee responses to First Nations comments requiring a response
31	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the number of stakeholder and public written comments specifically related to Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan referral that need a response, as compared to the number of Forest Development Plan consultation-comments responded to by licensees during the reporting year.	____# of stakeholder/public comments related to FDPs /FSPs requiring a response ____# of Licensee responses to stakeholder/public comments requiring a response
32	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensees will report the average time (months), for road cut and fill slope seeding application, completed during the reporting year on newly constructed roads.	____total km of road grass seeded ____average months for grass seed application
33	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensee report the current number of hectares maintained as Protected Areas as last reported by a Timber Supply Review Licensees report number of opportunities to participate in OGMA delineation and number of opportunities taken.	Number of hectares maintained as Protected Areas (data to come from current TSR). Number of opportunities to participate in OGMA delineation ___ Number of opportunities taken ___

Tar #	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring results
34	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensee report the current age class distribution on as last reported by a Timber Supply Review	Age class as percent of timber harvesting land base (data to come from current TSR).
35	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Survey responses coded 1 (poor), 2, 3 (satisfactory), 4, 5 (well done), and averaged. Results of feedback form compiled and reported as part of annual monitoring program.	Response average ___ Results of feedback form compiled and reported ____ yes____ no
36	**Monitoring/Reporting:** Licensee report the current mai as last reported by a Timber Supply Review	Current mai in m3/ha/yr (data to come from current TSR).